

Message Text

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54

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01 L-03 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 INRE-00 /082 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO GOVERNOR PANCANAL

SECRETARY PANCANAL CO WASH DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: POSSIBLE GOP EXPLOITATION OF LABOR PROBLEMS
IN CANAL ZONE

AWARE OF DELICATE SITUATION CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT
FACES AS RESULT OF POSSIBLE LARGE-SCALE RESIGNATION
OF CANAL PILOTS AND "SYMPATHY" WALKOUTS BY OTHER
ZONE LABOR GROUPS, AND MINDFUL OF GOP'S PREDILECTION
FOR EXPLOITING SUCH SITUATIONS PUBLICLY AND THEREBY
EXACERBATING THEM (AS WAS CASE WITH TORRIJOS' TELEVI-
SION REMARKS SOME WEEKS AGO), COUNTRY DIRECTOR
EXPLAINED PROBLEM IN DETAIL TO AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ
AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 28 AND SUGGESTED THAT INTERESTS
OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE SERVED IF CZG WERE
ALLOWED TO WORK ITS WAY OUT OF PROBLEM UNBURDENED
BY INTRUSION OF "FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS."

(POINT SEEMED WORTH MAKING EVEN THOUGH TORRIJOS
ABSENT FROM COUNTRY -- AND PERHAPS MORE WORTH
MAKING.) GONZALEZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD POINT AND
WOULD RELAY IT, THOUGH HE COULD GUARANTEE NOTHING.

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KISSINGER

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